

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data synchronization method comprising:  
transmitting from a master device to a slave  
device a certificate indicating that the slave device  
5 belongs to a data synchronization group to which the  
master device belongs and a priority to be used for  
solving conflict of data, thereby registering the slave  
device as a member of the data synchronization group to  
which the master device belongs; and  
10 determining whether or not a first slave device  
and a second slave device which is capable of  
communicating with the first slave device belong to  
the same data synchronization group by using the  
certificate, and performing data synchronization  
15 between the first slave device and the second slave  
device based on the priority if the first slave device  
and the second slave device belong the same data  
synchronization group.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
20 registering is performed after it is confirmed that  
there is no other device than said master device and  
said slave device, which other device is capable of  
communicating with said master device and is set in a  
registration mode.
- 25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
data synchronization is performed between one master  
device and one or more slave devices which belong to

the same synchronization group or between at least two slave devices which belong to the same synchronization group.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
5 master device and slave device store plural types of data and belong to plural data synchronization groups defined for each of said plural types of data.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said  
10 registering is performed by transmitting said certificate and said priority from the master device belonging to a given synchronization group defined for a given type of data to the slave device belonging to the given synchronization group, said certificate and said priority being set depending on the given type of  
15 data.

6. The method according to claim 1, further  
comprising transmitting data required to operate as the master device from said master device to a slave device which is targeted to transfer a master privilege,  
20 thereby transferring the master privilege to the slave device.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said  
master privilege transferring is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device than said  
25 master device and said slave device, which other slave device is capable of communicating with said master device and is set in a master privilege transfer mode.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising exchanging the priority between slave devices that belong to the same data synchronization group.

5           9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said priority exchanging is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device than said master device and said slave device, which other slave device is capable of communicating with said master device and  
10 is set in a priority exchanging mode.

          10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising releasing said master device or said slave device from the data synchronization group, wherein, if said master device is released, said master device  
15 transmits a releasing instruction to a slave device which is capable of communicating with said master device to release said slave device as well as said master device.

          11. A computer readable recording medium storing a  
20 computer program for data synchronization between plural devices, the program comprising:

          first program code means causing a master device transmit to a slave device a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to a data synchronization  
25 group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data, thereby registering the slave device as a member of the data

synchronization group to which the master device belongs; and

first program code means causing a first slave device and a second slave device to determine whether  
5 or not the first slave device and the second slave device which is capable of communicating with the first slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate, and perform data  
synchronization between the first slave device and the  
10 second slave device based on the priority if the first slave device and the second slave device belong the same data synchronization group.

12. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said registering is  
15 performed after it is confirmed that there is no other device than said master device and said slave device, which other device is capable of communicating with said master device and is set in a registration mode.

13. The computer readable recording medium  
20 according to claim 11, wherein said data synchronization is performed between one master device and one or more slave devices which belong to the same synchronization group or between at least two slave devices which belong to the same synchronization group.

25 14. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said data synchronization group is formed of a type of data.

15. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said registering is performed by transmitting said certificate and said priority from the master device set by a user for a  
5 given type of data to the slave device set by the user for the given type of data, said certificate and said priority being set depend on the type of data.

16. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said program further  
10 comprises third program code means causing said master device to transmit data required to operate as the master device to a slave device which is targeted to transfer a master privilege, thereby transferring the master privilege to the slave device.

15 17. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 16, wherein said master privilege transferring is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device than said master device and said slave device, which other slave device is  
20 capable of communicating with said master device and is set in a master privilege transfer mode.

18. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said program further comprises fourth program code means for causing slave  
25 devices that belong to the same data synchronization group to exchanging the priority.

19. The computer readable recording medium

according to claim 18, wherein said priority exchanging is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device than said master device and said slave device, which other slave device is capable of communicating with said master device and is set in a priority exchanging mode.

20. The computer readable recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said program further comprises fifth program code means for causing said master device or said slave device to be released from the data synchronization group, and if said master device is released, causing said master device to transmit a releasing instruction to a slave device which is capable of communicating with said master device to release said slave device as well as said master device.

21. An electronic device comprising:

a master unit, when an own device is set by a user as a master, configured to transmit to a slave device a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to a data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data, thereby registering the slave device as a member of the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs;

a slave unit, when the own device is set by the user as the slave, configured to receive from the

master unit the certificate and the priority; and  
a data synchronization unit configured to  
determine whether or not the own device and another  
device which is capable of communicating with the own  
5 device belong to the same data synchronization group by  
using the certificate, and perform data synchronization  
between the own device and the other device based on  
the priority if the own device and the other device  
belong the same data synchronization group.